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# Still Not Fully Realized— The West Is Fighting for Its Survival

*Islamic fundamentalism became front-page news after Sept. 11—but that doesn't mean there was no problem earlier. There certainly was plenty of warning, although nobody could have predicted the precise way in which fundamentalists would get the West's attention. Few would have listened anyway.*

by Melvin Rhodes

**P**arviz C. Radji was the Iranian ambassador to London in the months and years leading up to the overthrow of the shah in January 1979, a few weeks before British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher came to office. Prior to becoming the prime minister, Mrs. Thatcher was the leader of the opposition Conservative party.

In his book, *In the Service of the Peacock Throne*, Mr. Radji recounts a dinner with Mrs. Thatcher prior to a visit she was to make to Tehran, capital of Iran. The account from his diary entry of Wednesday, April 26, 1978, reads: "I try to impress Mrs. Thatcher with my analysis of the Iranian/Middle Eastern situation but I suspect that I somehow fail. There is, to be sure, 'perfect understanding,' to use the hackneyed diplomatic phrase, on such subjects as the dangers of world communist expansionism, the need for strong defenses, and a firm hand in dealing with terrorism. But on less clear-cut issues, such as *the rise of Islamic fundamentalism and its anti-Western bias*, I don't believe I retain her interest" (1983, p. 172, emphasis added).

Clearly, even the most memorable leaders have their faults. It's easy to understand why. The post-Christian West no longer takes religion seriously,

so it's difficult for Western leaders to comprehend the threat that may come to the West from non-Christian religions.

A few months after that dinner, the United States learned firsthand the threat of Islamic fundamentalism when Iranian students, followers of the Ayatollah Khomeini whose supporters overthrew the shah, stormed the American Embassy in Tehran and held U.S. Embassy staff as hostages for 444 days. For the next two decades, Americans would look back on this event and blame it on the weakness of the president in office at the time.

Sadly, an opportunity was lost to prepare for a major assault by the forces of Islamic fundamentalism. Even sadder, there still seems to be little understanding of the serious threat to the free world that Islamic fundamentalist terrorism poses. Sometimes the problem is simply a failure to join the dots, to put two and two together.

### Increased challenges for allies

For months now there has been talk of replacing Saddam Hussein as president of Iraq. While talk of this ambitious military action continued, the Israeli-Palestinian problem flared up. Coincidence? Not when you consider

(See "SURVIVAL," page 3)



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The mission of *World News and Prophecy* (WNP) is to provide our membership and interested persons with commentary and analysis of selected world news topics in the light of Bible prophecy. Its purpose is to help readers discern the times and increase their awareness and understanding of the answers Christ gave to His disciples' questions: "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3).

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Scriptural references are from the New King James Version (© 1988 Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers) unless otherwise noted.

**Subscriptions:** *World News and Prophecy* is sent free to the members of the United Church of God, and all who request it. There is no subscription price. To request a subscription, write to *World News and Prophecy*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, telephone (513) 576-9796 or download it from our Web site at <http://www.ucg.org>

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## We Hold These Truths . . .

It is among the most remarkable coincidences in history. It was called a “visible and palpable” manifestation of “Divine favor.” Fifty years to the day from the signing of the Declaration of Independence, on July 4, 1826, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the two most intimately connected with this document of freedom, died within hours of each other.

In Quincy, Massachusetts, Adams’ heart stopped at just past six in the evening. A thunderstorm had sprung up, and as the second U.S. president drew his last breath, “There was a final clap of thunder that shook the house, the rain stopped and the last sun of the day broke through dark, low hanging clouds—‘bursting forth...with uncommon splendor at the moment of his exit’” (David McCullough, *John Adams*, 2001, p. 647). Through the prophet Daniel, God said He places and removes rulers of nations. We might wonder if God orchestrated the exit from mortality of these two giants of American history.

Thomas Jefferson had authored the Declaration and Adams had been its prime advocate on the floor of Congress. Its words speak a fundamental message of human freedom. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...” The words continue to stir powerful emotions among people who are yet to experience freedom from fear, from injustice and the tyranny of evil.

Today’s war against terrorism seeks to turn back powerful forces bent on destroying the blessings of freedom and abundance enjoyed by Americans for more than two centuries. It is still difficult for most Americans to understand why others hate our system and way of life. And while America has many problems that need correcting, she is still a benevolent nation, which does not seek to conquer but to liberate.

Last month President George W. Bush stood among the graves of fallen soldiers on Omaha Beach in Normandy and commented on this very fact. Throughout its history America has never sent its soldiers beyond its borders to conquer nations. The sound of approaching American troops has meant liberation to people held under systems that denied fundamental human freedoms.

As we go to press with this issue of *World News and Prophecy*, we watch very carefully the escalating tension between two nuclear powers, India and Pakistan. Western nations are evacuating their citizens from both countries, fearing the worst possible scenario of nuclear war in South Asia. Islamic fundamentalism plays a key role in this crisis, as pointed out elsewhere in this issue. Many experts fear a destabilized Pakistan could result in nuclear weapons falling into the hands of al Qaeda militants, the worst possible nightmare for any Western nation.

Hope is hard to hold at times. The world scene can be very bleak and troubling. It is even hard to have confidence in the government to protect its citizens from attack. America braces itself not only for another terrorist attack, but also for further revelations of the total breakdown of security and intelligence systems that led to Sept. 11.

As we approach July 4 this year, there may be a muted tone to the celebration of American independence, which is all the more reason to recall the divine reasons for the emergence of America from the mists of history. And even though America has not restored freedom to the entire earth—only God’s Kingdom will do that—it may well be a type of the time to come when we’ll see the restoration of all things (Acts 3:19-21).

—Darris McNeely

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“SURVIVAL,” (Continued from page 1)

that Saddam offered to pay the families of all suicide bombers \$25,000, a great deal of money to people who have lived in refugee camps for over 50 years and see little prospect of an end to their misery.

As long as the heightened tensions on the West Bank continue, it is more difficult for the United States and Britain to act against Saddam. To say that this is a victory for Saddam does not detract from the reality that he is a despotic tyrant who is a major threat to the West. Try telling that to the Europeans—busily making money from trade ties to Iraq and other Mideast nations that sponsor terrorism.

Consider also Kashmir. Following an attack by Islamic militants on an Indian military camp, Pakistan and India are on the verge of another military conflict, one which this time could go nuclear. As I write this, on its Web page the BBC is reporting British government plans to get British citizens out of the area in the event of a nuclear war. Any conflict between these two powers will automatically put a stop to any allied efforts to find Osama bin Laden, Mullah Omar and any leftover al Qaeda dregs that might still be roaming in the mountains of the Hindu Kush. This will be another victory for the forces of Islamic fundamentalism.

A further victory for Islam became apparent during President Bush's visit to Europe. It's amazing to realize the incredible deterioration in relations between Europe and America since Sept. 11. The Bush administration, reacting to the biggest attack on the United States since Pearl Harbor, understandably has made the War on Terror a top priority. Many Europeans have a different perspective. Some even feel that the United States deserved what happened on Sept. 11. Demonstrators attacked the U.S. president for being a “cowboy,” ready to aggressively attack poor Third World nations to pursue American interests.

It's difficult for Americans to understand this attitude. In the last month, French nationals were killed in a terrorist attack on their bus in Pakistan, while Germans were killed in Tunisia in an

attack on a synagogue. Perhaps the tendency toward appeasement goes back to the end of the colonial period when Western Europeans started to feel sympathy for nationalist movements rebelling against the ruling Western powers. There was also a sense of guilt over their wealth in contrast to the relative poverty of some of their colonies.

Liberal, socialist ideas were sweeping across Europe in advance of the Soviet army. In reality, the Russians were the greatest imperialist power of the 20th century. But reality has little to do with perception, particularly when the media is dominated by leftists with their own agenda. The Palestinians are usually seen as poor, oppressed, subject peoples, while the Israelis seem like the bad, rich, Western colonialists. In reality, Israel is a small country with a small population, surrounded by hostile powers with much larger populations.

Just as Europe and America are drifting apart, Americans themselves are increasingly divided. There are those in the United States who realize that terrorism poses the greatest threat to the American republic ever. Increasingly, there are others who believe in “business as usual,” wanting to get back to the party politics of personal self-aggrandizement and the pursuit of their own interests.

My local newspaper is back to lengthy articles on the rights of women, gays and minorities, including Muslims. Perhaps it's simply a case of denial, a refusal deep down to contemplate the realities facing the United States. One American commentator described the United States as the only country that suffers from National ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder). Nine months after Sept. 11, many Americans just want to put it all behind them and forget about it.

### Fight for survival

Not so for conservative columnist Cal Thomas. In an editorial titled “U.S. Is in Fight for Its Survival” (*Lansing State Journal*, May 26, 2002), Mr. Thomas wrote about Vice President Dick Cheney's warning one week earlier that “another terror attack on the United States is ‘inevitable,’” and the

warning from the FBI director that it's only a matter of time until “suicide bombers” attack America.

Reminding readers that the Senate Intelligence Committee estimates there are 100 al Qaeda terrorist cells operating in the United States, Mr. Thomas asks how the U.S. government will react if (when?) the terrorists in these cells “decide to simultaneously blow themselves up in shopping malls, apartment buildings, a mega church, a synagogue and several airports all on the same day, killing thousands of people?”

Continuing, Cal Thomas writes: “An acquaintance of mine predicts ‘vigilante-ism of a kind like we've never seen before’ following any new terrorist attacks.” In proposing solutions he adds: “We must find new ways of keeping people out of America who come from regions of the world with a record of exporting death. That means no more ‘students’ from Middle Eastern countries and no more immigration until we can do a better job of profiling those who come here. If that means stationing troops along both borders, electric fences, high walls, guarding our ports and installing listening devices, so be it.”

In summation, he adds: “Should another terrorist attack occur, we'd better be prepared to strike at home and abroad without warning, without hesitation and with the full force of American military, political and moral might.”

The ailing 82-year-old pope also sees the impending threat, though his concern is not for the United States. Visiting Azerbaijan the day before President Bush arrived in Europe, the pope was again reaching out to Islam in the hope of averting further religious conflict. With only 150 Catholics in the country, his visit was not to his own flock. It was political. The Catholic Church has all too often been at the center of the 1,400-year-old struggle between Islam and Christianity.

Others see the increasing threat, too. First France and then Holland were shocked at recent election results that saw big gains for the extreme right political parties. They now join Austria, Italy and Denmark, five ancient

European nations whose citizens show an increased fear of foreigners and, especially since Sept. 11, Muslims. It will be interesting to see who wins the German election in a couple of months.

It seems likely that Germany's Social Democratic government may be replaced by the conservative Christian Democrat, Christian Social Union and their Bavarian leader Edmund Stoiber, whose mentor was Franz Josef Strauss.

Russia also sees the threat from Islamic fundamentalists. The recent deaths of Russian veterans and children in a terrorist bomb blast on Victory Day, commemorating the end of World War II, visibly angered President Putin, who blamed Chechen rebels, Muslims supported by al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden.

### Prophesied Islamic threat

Bible prophecy is interesting in the light of these developments.

Daniel chapter 11 gives us an overview of the Middle East in prophecy. While most of the chapter was fulfilled over two thousand years ago, though after Daniel lived, the last few verses are yet to be fulfilled. With no Jewish nation in the Middle East from the time of the Romans until the restoration of a Jewish homeland in 1948, there is a big time gap in this chapter. Suddenly, in verse 40 we read: "At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships..."

A power to the south of Jerusalem is prophesied to attack ("push at," KJV) a power to the north of Jerusalem. Not necessarily due south or north. The king of the South in ancient times was Egypt under the Ptolemaic dynasty; the king of the North was Syria under the Seleucids. These two powers often fought over Jerusalem and its environs, as did the later Roman Empire. Their repeated invasions came from the south and the north.

Could the modern king of the South be resurgent Islam? For two centuries the Western colonial powers dominated the Middle East. Since World War II the West has been progressively pushed out of the area as first Arab nationalism and

then Islamic fundamentalism took over. The biggest single turning point was the rebirth of the Jewish homeland in May 1948. Immediately, five Arab armies surrounded Israel and tried to crush the half million Jews who were the occupants of this new land. They failed. But this has not stopped attempts to destroy the Jewish state.

The humiliation of the Arab armies led to revolutions in some Arab nations. In 1952 King Farouk of Egypt was overthrown. Six years later the king of Iraq and most of his family were murdered in a bloody military coup that led in time to Saddam Hussein coming to power. Many attempts were made on the life of King Hussein of Jordan.

The British were pushed out of Aden and withdrew from the Gulf States; the French lost Algeria. King Idris of Libya was overthrown in 1969 by the fanatical nationalist Mu'ammarr Gadhafi. Ten years later, Islamic fundamentalism overthrew the non-Arab shah of Iran. One after the other, pro-Western governments were replaced by more radical regimes, either Arab nationalist or Islamic fundamentalist.

Now we see the two coming together. While Saddam Hussein is an Arab nationalist, he has never been seen as a religious man, until now. Since Sept. 11 he is increasingly being shown on Iraqi television (and on billboards) at prayer and is lavishly spending millions of dollars in building the biggest mosque in the world. He is offering total support to the Palestinians in their struggle with Israel, as is Osama bin Laden. The distinction between nationalists and fundamentalists is increasingly blurred.

At the same time, cooperation between al Qaeda leaders and the presidents of the various Islamic nations is increasing as peoples throughout the Islamic world are increasingly incensed at what is seen as Israeli aggression against the Palestinians.

Why now? Satellite television, that's why. Until four years ago there was no Arabic language satellite TV station. Now there is. Broadcast from Abu Dhabi, Muslims across the region can now see Palestinians suffering 18 hours a day. Naturally, there is no film of Israelis suffering daily homicide bombings.

American newscaster Ted Koppel, monitoring the al-Jazeera television network shortly after the September terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, was shocked at how anti-American all callers into a four-hour television phone-in were. It's a simple logic: "Israel is trying to kill the Palestinians. Israel must die. America supports Israel. America must die."

Whether he is dead or alive, Osama bin Laden's perceived victories against the Soviets in Afghanistan in 1989 and against the United States in September 2001 have inspired Muslims across the world to push against the West.

This has been building up for some time. J.T. Caruso, the assistant director of the FBI's counter-terrorism division, made a statement to a congressional committee on Dec. 18 confirming that "al-Qaida had supported 'Islamic fighters' in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Chechnya and the Philippines" ("Colonial Wars" by Neil Clark, *The Spectator* (UK), April 13, 2002, p. 24). And yes, your memory is working correctly—the United States was on the same side as al Qaeda, helping them, in fact, in the first three of those five conflicts!

The future looks bleak. Islamic fundamentalism is certainly on the rise. Ironically, if the United States and Britain are able to remove Saddam from power, the most likely replacement for his regime would be an Islamic fundamentalist government.

The same is true in other nations across the Islamic world. Pakistan is particularly vulnerable in this area. Islamic, or *sharia* law, is already in force in the country. As it is also in distant northern Nigeria, where Christian churches have been burned to the ground with worshipers in them. The Sudanese civil war continues with the ruling northern Muslims persecuting southern Christians and even taking them as slaves. In Indonesia, too, there have been attacks on Christians by Muslims.

### Perception lagging behind reality

Joining the dots, what is becoming apparent is that Islamic forces across the

(See "SURVIVAL," page 7)

# What Do You Know—and What Will You Do?

*While America slept, the nation was caught unprepared for the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Some have questioned how much advance information the government had—and whether that could have prevented the terrorist attack. But there is a larger question to consider: What does it take for a people to awaken to the urgency of the times?*

by Darris McNeely

It was inevitable that, in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, many questions would be asked about how such an atrocity could be planned and carried out without catching the attention of the CIA or the FBI, America's vaunted intelligence agencies.

CIA Director George Tenet was having breakfast at a Washington hotel when he learned of the attack. Like everyone else, he was taken by surprise. In spite of the nearly 10 years of attacks on American interests here and abroad, including the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, the country was caught unawares by the audacity of men willing to die for their cause while taking thousands of innocent lives with them.

That questions would arise, either trying to pin the blame or make political capital out of the tragedy, is part of the wartime scenario. It happened after Pearl Harbor, the Japanese attack on the Hawaiian military base, which led to the United States' entry into World War II.

The May 27 issue of *Newsweek*, in an article titled "What Went Wrong?" compared the process of gathering and analyzing intelligence to "taking a metal detector to a city dump." The amount of information that comes in each day from around the world is staggering. In addition to the FBI and CIA's sophisticated operations, each branch of the armed services maintains separate intelligence-gathering operations. Unless this information is properly processed and analyzed, it is worthless. Analyzing it properly takes a combination of skill and intuition to be able to connect all the dots and form a clear picture.

## **An intelligence breakdown**

It appears that a counterterrorism expert in the FBI's Phoenix, Arizona, office made a connection

last summer regarding the significant number of young Middle Eastern men taking courses in how to fly airplanes. The long memo describing this connection, and raising the possibility that Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda network had infiltrated American flight schools, did not get sufficient attention to ring alarm bells. It was transmitted to the Washington FBI headquarters, but was ignored at higher levels.

CIA Director George Tenet had been issuing warnings that Bin Laden was "the most immediate" threat. Sadly, he too was ignored. His warnings had been so frequent, and nothing had happened, that he was not taken seriously—like the proverbial boy who cried wolf too often.

The Stratfor Intelligence Service made an insightful analysis in a recent posting. It observed that "the U.S. intelligence system is overwhelmingly geared toward the collection, rather than the analysis, of information. The result is inevitable: a huge amount of information is gathered, but it is never turned into intelligence."

Commenting on the FBI's failure to analyze the memo from the Phoenix field office, it concluded: "Some administrator in the FBI decided that the Phoenix report was not worth pursuing. The facts are not in on this, but it is highly likely that no one provided him with any guidance as to what was significant and what was not, and it is almost certain that he did not have an appropriate context for drawing judgments himself... Information collected but not analyzed is the same as information that never existed" (Stratfor, "Sept. 11: What Did Bush Know and When Did He Know It?" May 20, 2002).

Of course, such matters could be debated for years. Yet *Newsweek* put the focus right on the major question when it said: "At issue is not

*The Bible shows that God's pattern has been to send a message of warning before a time of judgment.*

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whom to blame for the past, but how to learn from it to safeguard the future.”

### Warnings to wake up

Again we ask: How much warning does it take for a people to awaken to the urgency of the times? Considering the years of attacks by terrorists on American interests abroad, the question is vitally important amid the many predictions from officials that another major terrorist attack is simply a matter of time.

While the American government reacts with increased security measures at airports, nuclear plants and major sporting events, it is left to the individual to consider the right response to the threat of future events. From God’s perspective the individual has the weighty responsibility to heed a warning and react.

Jesus Christ used two examples of His day to illustrate this important point. Notice the strong message of warning in Luke 13:1-5. The passage begins, “There were present at that season some who told Him [Jesus Christ] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.” Some worshipers at the temple were singled out by the Roman governor and killed for no apparent reason.

Christ’s reaction to the event was to make a sobering point: “Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but *unless you repent* you will all likewise perish” (emphasis added throughout).

It was fruitless to speculate about whether some were worse sinners than others. He added another well-known tragedy of that time and drew the same lesson. “Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but *unless you repent* you will all likewise perish.”

He warned that, unless they repented, they would also be subject to a sudden and violent end—“you will all *likewise* perish.” Many hear of tragedies and go on to live out a normal life and die a normal death. But many who heard Christ’s words suffered a horrible fate at the hands of the Roman legions who came to subdue the Jewish nation several decades later. Those who heeded Christ’s warning were able to escape the worst of the devastation of



Reuters

### *CIA Director George Tenet’s many warnings were not taken seriously*

Jerusalem. Christ could foresee the times the world was moving into following its rejection of Him and His message. Today we are again living in those “perilous times” the apostle Paul spoke of in 2 Timothy 3. Christ’s words are once again a grave warning for our generation.

Jesus expected all who heard Him to look soberly at such tragedies and make changes in their personal lives. Unless we heed the warning and repent, He said, we are also subject to meeting the same kind of pointless and futile end.

However, if we are jolted to the stark reality of godly repentance, come to understand the ultimate goal of life and move toward that purpose with unswerving determination, then we will have achieved the highest realm of understanding in life.

### Discerning the times

Christ spoke these words on His final journey to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51-53). He was moving toward the final purpose of His life in the flesh, to die for the sins of mankind. His “face was set for the journey” and His teaching reflected a no-nonsense approach to the business at hand. Earlier He had admonished: “Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the

master, when he comes, will find watching” (Luke 12:35-37).

Watching and discerning the times make up but one part of the equation. We must then *act* on the knowledge we gain and move with understanding to avoid a time of trouble or the consequences of wrong decisions.

Christ scolded those who seemed to understand they were in troubled times but could not or *would* not take the right action to avoid trouble. “Then He also said to the multitudes, ‘Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west, immediately you say, “A shower is coming”; and so it is. And when you see the south wind blow, you say, “There will be hot weather”; and there is. Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how is it *you do not discern this time?*’” (verses 54-56).

God is merciful in that He always provides a warning for people to change and escape from impending trouble. He is also very patient, giving us time to let the message sink in and move us to change. God is willing to wait many seasons before we wake up and see the need to do something about our lives. But there will ultimately be a time of judgment, both on the world and on the individual.

Christ added a parable to make this point: “A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, ‘Look, for three

years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down'" (Luke 13:6-9).

God's words of warning act like a two-edged sword, opening our minds to understand the real issues of life. These are laid bare—leaving us with a choice to repent and live righteously before our Creator or to continue stumbling blindly forward toward an abyss.

### The real message of Ezekiel

The Bible shows that God's pattern has been to send a message of warning before a time of judgment. He is patient and merciful in His desire and effort to save humanity from suffering the consequences of sin. Ezekiel's picture of a watchman on the walls urging his countrymen to see the sword coming upon the land, is a powerful scene from Israel's history.

Ezekiel 33 clearly shows the dual responsibility of the watchman and those he is warning—the citizens of the nation. "When he [the watchman] sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his [the citizen's] blood shall be on his own head" (verses 3-4). However, if the watchman fails to do his job, then he will bear a severe judgment for failing in his duty (verse 6).

God makes clear the individual's responsibility to repent, to act on the knowledge of coming trouble. God shows that judgment and trial follow in the wake of sin and iniquity. This is a hard concept for the modern mind to grasp. We have been conditioned to ignore the true cause of our world's problems, which is the violation of the fundamental relationship with our Creator. Until that link is realized, we are destined to suffer tragic consequences greater than any in the past.

The core of God's admonition to mankind is found in Ezekiel 18. The key to healing the breach between man and God is found in transforming your life by turning from sin, the very thing that severs our relationship with God. "... If a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does

what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live. Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?' says the Lord GOD, 'and not that he should turn from his ways and live?'" (verses 21-23).

This section concludes with this stirring call: "'Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,' says the Lord GOD. 'Therefore turn and live!'" (verses 31-32).

God wants us—His creation—to live abundantly, not destructively. But, until a major revolution in thinking occurs, we will witness only more suffering.

History shows that nations are unable to read the handwriting of warning upon the walls of their times. The Babylonians parted the night away while the Persians slipped in under the gates of Babylon. Before World War II, the most devastating conflict in human history, both England and America slept while their foes armed themselves in preparation for war. And 12 years ago no one foresaw that Iraq would invade Kuwait, thus setting off the first round of the Persian Gulf War.

Despite the information, including years of attacks on American interests abroad (and a warm-up attack on the World Trade Center several years earlier), no one was able to put together a clear picture of an impending catastrophe like that of Sept. 11. How much warning does a nation need before it will make a change and avoid additional sorrow? Past history is not very encouraging, for its record offers little hope.

But *you* can do something. You can change your life and make a difference within your world. The real question following Sept. 11 is not what the president or other government officials knew and when did they know it. The most important question is this: What do *you* know, and *what will you do about it?* Only you can provide the answer. Our booklet *What Is Your Destiny?* can ignite a transformation in your life that will make a difference. Send for it now if you haven't already done so. It's time you set your face toward the goal of eternal life. ❖

**"SURVIVAL,"** (Continued from page 4)

globe are increasingly cooperating, working together to defeat their common enemy, the West. Those jubilant crowds out on the streets of the Islamic world within minutes of the successful terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 were not atypical. What we see here is the beginning of another world war, in the sense that the conflict is international, with outbreaks of violence occurring on four continents.

Meanwhile, the West has scarcely moved on since that dinner with Mrs. Thatcher. Western governments still maintain that the threat is not Islam in general, but a few militants in particular. Immigration policies remain unchanged, allowing the internal threat to worsen with every arriving plane. Hollywood still churns out the same garbage that only feeds the universal hatred of Western values. And little if anything is being done anywhere to reduce dependence on Middle East oil.

One of the greatest 20th century writers was George Orwell, who wrote *1984* and *Animal Farm*. Orwell involved himself in the Spanish Civil War (1936 to 1939) on the side of the leftist Republicans against the fascists who were aided by Nazi Germany and Italy's Mussolini. Vainly trying to warn the dominant Western power of the time, Great Britain, Orwell wrote an essay called "While England Sleeps," warning of the impending threat from fascism. Meanwhile, Britain's prime minister was negotiating with Hitler and promising "peace in our time."

The West is still asleep to the crisis that is building daily. Today, almost all the wars that dominate our nightly news have a certain commonality. It can be summed up in one word: Islam. The king of the South has arrived and is pushing against the powers of the North, even as the North divides.

The prophesied biblical scenario is coming to pass before our eyes.

For more on this subject we recommend reading our free booklet, *The Book of Revelation Unveiled*. Contact any of our offices listed on page 2, or request or download them from our Web site at [www.ucg.org](http://www.ucg.org). ❖

# Palestine/Israel— Whose Land Is It, Really?

*Some claim that the Palestinians have been forced off their land and that they have been deprived of what is rightfully theirs. Others maintain that the Israelis have a legitimate entitlement to their nation, including the lands seized in war action. The current U.S. administration has begun to use the word “occupy” in reference to Israeli military presence in Palestinian towns, implying that the Israelis have invaded sovereign territory. Whose land is it, really? Frankly, the answer may surprise you.*

by Cecil E. Maranville

“Palestine” is a term that essentially corresponds to a section of land in southwest Asia at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. That same territory comprises the modern Israeli state. Since becoming a nation in 1948, the Israelis have developed a productive, fertile and wealthy nation in a desert wasteland. They have been outstanding custodians of their homeland.

But, is it *their* homeland? Or, is it the Palestinians’ homeland? “Palestinians” is the commonly used appellation for the descendants of approximately 780,000 Arabs who were displaced by a war between five Arab nations and the newly proclaimed state of Israel in 1948.

When the war began, some of the Arabs abandoned their homes in fear, while others left believing that they would soon return. Of course, they did not anticipate that the Israelis would win the war, much less such a lopsided victory. Since that time, these displaced peoples and their descendants have lived in temporary camps without a land they could call their own.

The bitter dispute over the ownership of Palestine continues to this day. Neither people is willing to accept the other’s claim to total control of the territory that both consider their own. As with any complex dispute, there are many ways of presenting the issues involved.

## **How the Israelis came to possess the land**

The Israelis believe that they have a legitimate claim for several reasons. Not the least of which is that they successfully defended it against overwhelming numbers in the late 1940s and subsequent wars. Is the land theirs, because they have been able to defend it? How did it come to be theirs in the first place?

Turning back the clock to the two and a half decades leading up to the establishment of the

Israeli nation, the land of Palestine was under the control of the British. For political reasons, the British promised a Palestinian homeland both to resident Arabs and to Jewish immigrants. The Arabs had helped the British overthrow the Ottoman Turks and were promised control of their land in return for their allegiance. So, the Palestinian Arabs could rightly claim ownership of land in which many of them had lived. But, does that fact make it *their* land?

At the same time that the British gave the land to their Arab friends, they were also interested in currying the political support of Jews in different parts of the British Empire. So they promised the same land to the Jews! Therefore, both peoples could claim that the land had been given to them!

Failing to understand the passion in the heart of both peoples, the British did not anticipate that the Arab Palestinians and the Jews would want the same land.

When the British-Arab alliance freed Jerusalem from Ottoman rule in 1917, the Arab Palestinians vastly outnumbered Jewish settlers. That, in spite of the fact that from the 1880s, Jewish refugees had been pouring into the area. Due to an intensification of anti-Semitism, Theodor Herzl had founded the World Zionist Organization in 1897, proposing that European Jews immigrate to Palestine and have freedom from persecution.

Immigration increased dramatically in the 1930s, with Nazism at its peak, when world sympathy inclined towards the Jews. Even so, the British attempted to limit Jewish immigration to Palestine in deference to their Arab allies. It was in this climate that the British found themselves promising the land of Palestine to both Arabs and Jews.

Acts of terrorism in today’s Palestine headline the news almost daily, as homicide bombers

*The bitter dispute over the ownership of Palestine continues. Neither people is willing to accept the other’s claim to total control of the territory that both consider their own. As with any complex dispute, there are many ways of presenting the issues involved.*

blow themselves up in public places in Israel, slaughtering and maiming innocent Israeli citizens. However, terrorism was practiced by both sides in those years of upheaval, before the 1947-48 Arab-Israeli war ended with Israel in control of most of Palestine. One Jewish terrorist who planned and carried out strikes against the occupying British troops later became a prime minister of Israel—Menachem Begin. He was famous for referring to the land of Palestine as “Judea” and “Samaria,” names the land held when occupied by ancient Israel.

Unable to negotiate an acceptable settlement, the British turned to the United Nations to resolve the complex issue.

In 1947, the UN proposed what appeared to be a logical solution—partitioning the land between the two peoples. The mufti of Jerusalem, the spokesman for the Palestinian Arabs, rejected it. The Jewish immigrants, at the time, accepted the idea. Under the leadership of David Ben Gurion, Israel declared itself a state on May 14, 1948. In spite of superior numbers, the Palestinian Arabs fled from the Israelis, counting on their Arab brothers to crush the upstart nation and return Palestine to their control.

Of course, that didn't happen.

### **Who had it first doesn't solve the dilemma**

If we attempt to settle the Palestinian question by the concept of “who was there first,” we meet with obvious difficulties. If we go back to the late 19th century and the early 20th century, the Arabs were in Palestine first. So, is the land rightfully theirs? Not so fast. Let's go back further—thousands of years further.

Historians believe the first major population to inhabit the land was the Canaanites. If “possession is 9/10ths of the law,” the land belonged to them and their descendants. But, a militarily powerful people known as Philistines migrated into the Canaanite land, and it's their name that is thought to have evolved into “Palestine.” So, is it *their* descendants who can rightfully claim the land of Palestine is theirs?

It's not that simple, either.

Another people migrated into the land of Canaan—they were the descendants of a man named “Eber,” whose name meant “the other side.” They were

known as “Hebrews,” coming from “the other side” of the Euphrates into Canaan. Their most famous patriarch was Abraham.

Genesis 12 records his immigration to Canaan. When he and his family arrived in the territory, an amazing event happened. The Creator God appeared to Abram, as he was known at the time, and made a remarkable promise: “*To your descendants I will give this land*” (verse 7). You can't get higher authority than that—greater than the militant Philistines, superior to the grand British Empire, senior to the United Nations—the Supreme God gave the land away. Possession wasn't the determining factor of right to ownership; the Canaanites had it taken out from under them.

Since the Jews are Abraham's children, the land is theirs after all. Right? No, it's still not that simple. *Two* vast peoples descended from Abraham's two sons, Isaac and Ishmael. From Isaac came Jacob, also named Israel and from him 12 clans (or 13, depending on how they are configured). The Jews are the descendants of only one of those tribes, that of Judah.

Further, the descendants of Ishmael are the Arabs! So, who has the right to the land of Palestine?

God's promise to Abraham was repeated to Isaac and then to Jacob (Israel), making clear that His intent was that Isaac's line would be the one to inherit the land.

### **Jews and Muslims lay a religious claim to the land**

History was neither soft nor kind to Israel, for it had to fight to occupy and hold the land. Civil war divided the country into two nations, known as Judea and Samaria. It was to this rough and tumble period of Palestine's history that Menachem Begin referred by calling modern Palestine by those names. He meant to emphasize that the Jews had a *religious claim* to the land.

Religion is also a factor in the Palestinian view. According to the CIA's *World Factbook*, the religious preference of 75 percent of the Palestinians is Muslim. Beginning in the seventh century, Muslims began a 1,300-year reign over what was initially known as “Filastin,” a precursor to “Palestine.” (A

connection to the ancient Philistines is obvious.)

“Palestine was holy to Muslims because the Prophet Muhammad had designated Jerusalem as the first *qibla* (the directions Muslims face when praying) and because he was believed to have ascended on a night journey to heaven from the area of Solomon's temple, where the Dome of the Rock was later built. Jerusalem became the third holiest city of Islam” (*Encarta Online Encyclopedia*, 2002, “Palestine,” p. 4).

Professor Moshe Sharon, who has a doctorate in medieval Islamic history from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, lectured last fall on “The Agenda of Islam.” Dr. Sharon addressed the correlation between “Islam and Territory,” according to the strictest school of Islamic law: “This civilization created one very important, fundamental rule about territory. Any territory that comes under Islamic rule cannot be de-Islamized. Even if at one time or another, the [non-Muslim] enemy takes over the territory that was under Islamic rule, it is considered to be perpetually Islamic. This is why whenever you hear about the Arab/Israeli conflict, you hear: territory, territory, territory. There are other aspects to the conflict, but territory is highly important” (www.mjaa.org).

Therefore, many Palestinian Muslims believe they also have a *religious claim* to the land of Palestine. That is why they have fought and will continue to fight so ferociously for it.

The intensity of the passion on both sides of this complex issue is no less than it was in 1947, when both the Arabs and Jews believed that they had a right—the full right of ownership—to Palestine.

So, whose land is it? Remember, one no less than the Creator God claimed ownership of the land and the right to name its inheritor. To whom did He give it?

### **The land goes to the covenant people**

From the beginning of the promises He made to Abraham, and then repeated to Isaac, Israel and his children, God intertwined those promises in a pact called a covenant. It was not the type of covenant which is negotiated between equals, but rather the type of agreement

(See “**WHOSE LAND,**” page 15)

# Book Review: *Statecraft* by Margaret Thatcher

*A review of Margaret Thatcher's new book, Statecraft, published by Harper and Collins, London, 2002.*

by John Ross Schroeder

**D**edicated to President Ronald Reagan (whose administration ran from 1981 to 1989), a new book by former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (who governed Britain from 1979 to 1990) is mainly a panoramic assessment of world conditions from a political, economic and military point of view. Although this new work covers elements of America, Russia, Asia and the Middle East, this review concentrates on the European theater.

According to some of what one reads in the European press, continental leaders “believe they are moving beyond power into a self-contained world of laws and rules and transnational negotiation and cooperation. Europe itself has entered a post-historical paradise, the realization of Immanuel Kant’s ‘perpetual peace’” (Robert Kagan, “Different Philosophies of Power,” *International Herald Tribune*, May 27, 2002).

Many European politicians do not fully share President Bush’s view of Iraq, Iran and the Middle East in general. For instance, “The Europeans think that Iraq’s Saddam Hussein is a containable menace. They say he is like a dozen other Middle Eastern despots who have seen their day and gone . . . In any case the Iraq threat scenarios are unserious . . . Iran seems to most West Europeans a state on its way back to occupying a normal place in international society . . . Iran finances Islamic groups conducting anti-Israel terrorism, but so does Washington’s ally Saudi Arabia. Neither Iraq or Iran seem to the Europeans to present problems that another war would solve” (William Pfaff, “Not About to Change Their Minds,” *ibid.*, May 27, 2002).

Mrs. Thatcher does not share these dovish views and is in near full agreement with President Bush’s views on the global threat of Islamic and other forms of terrorism and the rogue states that sponsor it.

## Gaining a glimpse of Armageddon

In Baroness Thatcher’s analysis of the pre-

Sept. 11 world, “We heard more and more about human rights, less and less about national security. We spent more on welfare, less on defence [British spelling throughout]. We allowed our intelligence efforts to slacken. We hoped—and many more liberal-minded politicians encouraged us to hope—that within the global village, there were only to be found good neighbours. Few of us were tactless enough to mention that what makes good neighbours is often good fences.”

What Margaret Thatcher clearly recognized was that Sept. 11 stripped away some of the illusions that gripped the minds of so many leaders. In fact she said, “It is [still] a world of risk, of conflict and of latent violence.” She further stated that by means of last September’s tragedy, “we gained a glimpse of Armageddon.” Summing up the lessons to be drawn from that fateful day in September, Mrs. Thatcher wrote: “In short the world had never ceased to be dangerous. But the West had ceased to be vigilant. Surely that is the most important lesson of this tragedy, and we must learn from it if our civilisation is to survive” (*Statecraft*, previous quotes from p. xxv).

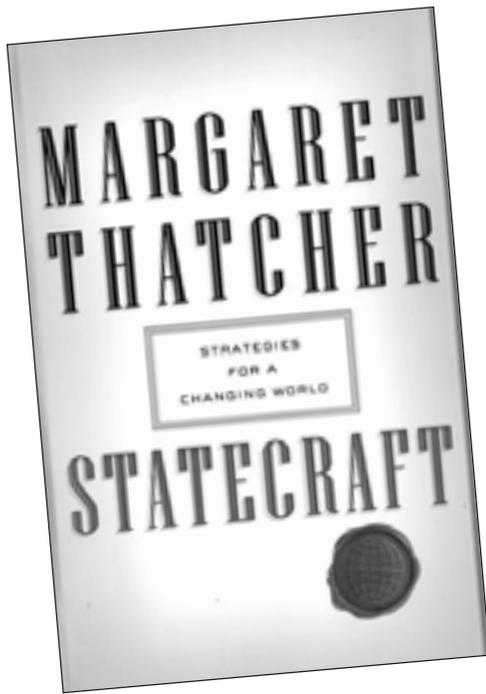
Later in *Statecraft* she reinforced these views in her analysis of a humanly devised “New World Order.” The former prime minister wrote: “But anyone who really believes that a ‘new order’ of any kind is going to replace the disorderly conduct of human affairs, particularly the affairs of nations, is likely to be severely disappointed, and others with him” (p. 29).

At this juncture we go from the general to the more specific.

## Thatcher and the euro

Baroness Thatcher has very little time for the European single currency. She states her views in the clearest language. “The European single currency is bound to fail, economically, politically and indeed socially, though the timing, occasion and full consequences are all necessarily still unclear” (p. 354).

*“In short the world had never ceased to be dangerous. But the West had ceased to be vigilant. Surely that is the most important lesson of this tragedy, and we must learn from it if our civilisation is to survive”  
(Margaret Thatcher discussing Sept. 11).*



However, Prime Minister Tony Blair and his present administration are sold on the euro and would like to join up in the near future—possibly as early as near the end of the year, or in 2003. According to *The Guardian*, “Tony Blair unleashed another bout of euro-speculation last night when he acknowledged the decision on the euro is getting ‘close’ and said to stay out would be a ‘betrayal’” (May 16, 2002). *The Economist* adds that “the chances of a referendum on euro-entry taking place are greater than most people believe, and growing” (May 18, 2002).

Margaret Thatcher’s views are the polar opposite of the present Labour government. She writes: “Abolition of the pound in favour of the euro would constitute a major loss of Britain’s power to govern herself [her sovereignty] and thus an unacceptable blow to democracy. The alleged economic benefits of the euro are either non-existent, or trivial, or can be achieved by other means. The economic disadvantages are substantially greater for Britain even than for the other European countries. Britain should not contemplate giving up the pound” (*Statecraft*, p. 388).

### Views on a European superstate

For many years Baroness Thatcher has consistently warned against allowing a European superstate to emerge. *Statecraft* contains no departure from

these strongly stated views. However, she concedes that “it seems very likely that the drive for a United States of Europe, a European superstate, is now *unstoppable*” (emphasis added). Then she adds a little later: “The momentum is just too strong.”

Mrs. Thatcher carefully explains her view that, unlike the United States, “Europe is not based on a common language, culture and values.” Instead, by contrast, “Europe is the result of *plans*. It is in fact, a classic utopian project, a monument to the vanity of intellectuals, a programme whose inevitable destiny is failure; only the scale of the final damage done is in doubt” (all quotes in this section, p. 359).

Certainly in a long-term sense, this assessment resembles the Bible’s. In its ultimate expression of a core 10-nation entity, this end-time union is likened in Scripture to “iron mixed with miry clay.” It will not last all that long. However, a great deal of damage to humanity can be done in a very short time. Hitler’s Third Reich lasted only 12

years (1933 to 1945), but the damage inflicted on the world is still being measured.

Many millions were killed and European Jewry was almost wiped out, along with extended suffering and near starvation among those who survived—particularly in the defeated nations, but even in Britain, whose post-war economic woes lasted several years.

### Summing up

In conclusion, though Margaret Thatcher could be pragmatic and a very practical politician when day-to-day realities required it, she always understood that “in the age of democracy, the pursuit of statecraft without regard to moral principles is all but impossible, and it makes little sense for even the most hard-nosed politician to ignore this fact” (p. xxi).

No matter how evil this present age becomes (Galatians 1:4), ultimately it is still a world of cause and effect, right and wrong, good and evil, truth and error. God has made it so. ❖

## Vignettes From *Statecraft*

- In 1999 alone there were civil wars of one kind or another taking place in 19 countries around the world.
- Attempts to suppress national differences or to amalgamate different nations with distinct traditions into artificial states are very likely to fail, perhaps bloodily.
- In Britain we know how much we owe to America. We understand how close our countries are.
- America’s closest allies, particularly her allies in the English-speaking world, must regard America’s mission as encompassing their own.
- The Bolshevik Revolution can be seen in retrospect to have been a reversion to the most odious kind of age-old tyranny, supplemented by the technological apparatus of totalitarianism.
- Russia has always had a unique capacity to surprise. Every prediction about it should be hedged around with qualifications if whoever makes them would be secure from embarrassment.
- Asia is the largest continent, comprising a third of all dry land, and containing more than half the world’s population. Its importance is growing and will, I am sure, continue to grow.
- Formal conversations with Chinese dignitaries are always uncomfortable. This is because the chairs are arranged next to each other, so that you have to turn at an angle to speak. You can, therefore, never look one another straight in the eye.
- North Korea is a classic rogue state—a doctrinaire dictatorship controlling a closed society, at once oppressive and aggressive, armed to the teeth with conventional weapons, and anxious to develop and export weapons of mass destruction.
- There appears to many to be a close connection between Islamic extremism and terrorist violence. Osama bin Laden’s obscene punctuation of his threats against the West with invocations of the Divinity reinforces that impression.

# In Brief...

## World News Review

### The Euro, the Dollar and the Pound

In late May a series of upbeat economic reports showed that the European economy is gaining strength, and helped lift the euro to a 14-month high against the dollar. On May 29 the euro stood at 93.5 cents compared to the dollar, a significant rise. Many investors are showing confidence in the euro during this sustained period of success against the dollar.

Meanwhile Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair continues to edge Britain toward a fateful union with the Continent by pushing his desire to adopt the euro as the coin of the realm. While polls are showing Britons remain skeptical (a recent poll showed 53 percent were against adoption of the euro), it is clear some leaders see Britain's future to be with Europe rather than America.

In a new book that has drawn widespread attention in England, Will Hutton, former editor of *The Observer*, argues that Britain shares the liberal social values of Continental Europe and should join its currency to form a bulwark against a hegemonic United States whose driving political force is the religious conservatism of the South.

"The rise of American conservatism has disconnected U.S. civilization from the European mainstream," Hutton argues. "Europe is our continent. We share the same history and the same core values. We should, of course, join the euro."

On the other side, some hard-line Conservatives—among them the former prime minister, Margaret Thatcher—disdain the Continent's comparatively sluggish economies and rigid labor markets with a collective "no, thank you." Instead, they argue that Britain should renegotiate its membership in the European Union, cast its lot with the United States and join the North American Free Trade Agreement (*International Herald Tribune*, May 27, 2002).

A major shift in relations between America and Britain would be historic. Will Hutton is wrong. Britain has far more in common with America than Europe. Britain shares with America a common language, democratic values and history that goes deeper than most understand. It shares a spiritual legacy from the biblical patriarch Jacob and the blessing conferred on the sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh. The story is told in our booklet, *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*. Write for your free copy today.

### Subcontinent on the Brink

It is a toss-up today to determine which region is the most dangerous, the Middle East or India and Pakistan. Militant factions from Pakistan have been attacking military

and police posts on the India-Pakistan frontier, pushing both nuclear armed nations toward their fourth armed conflict since 1947. India has massed nearly one million troops on the border. Diplomatic efforts to avert war have been intense. A constant parade of officials has been making their way to the region. Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw made a trip to both sides in late May. Russia's Vladimir Putin has also offered to mediate the conflict.

The great fear in this conflict is the exchange of nuclear missiles. In the event of one miscalculation on either side, millions would die and large regions of the subcontinent would be rendered uninhabitable for decades. Both the United States and Britain have drawn up plans to evacuate their citizens from the region in the event of war.

Officials from the U.S. State Department and the military's Pacific Command have begun drawing up evacuation plans for 50,000 to 60,000 U.S. civilians, virtually all of them in India, a Pentagon official with access to the plans said. The State Department has already warned U.S. citizens to avoid traveling to Pakistan and India and said Americans in those countries should consider leaving.

An airlift of that magnitude would dwarf the evacuations of Americans from Vietnam, which Washington and U.S. forces abandoned in early 1975, said a military official familiar with U.S. airlift capabilities.

Many reports state that al Qaeda forces are provoking the Pakistan attacks in an effort to undermine the regime of Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf. Should this happen and should Pakistan fall apart, there is the fear of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of Islamic terrorists, something no one wants to think about. India's big fear is a future threat from an armed Islamic front on its northwest frontier. This they cannot allow and will go to whatever lengths to prevent. At stake is more than the disputed region of Kashmir. A May 28, 2002, Stratfor analysis had this to say:

"From India's viewpoint, Pakistan represents the only serious national security challenge.

"On a deeper level, the Pakistani-Indian frontier represents the borderland between the Islamic and Hindu worlds. Whatever the current condition of India, the broad historical threat is that the Islamic world one day might unite. In that case, the manageable threat posed by Pakistan would become a potentially unmanageable situation, in which the weight of reemergent Islamic power would thrust up against an India that might not be able to resist. These are hypothetical fears, far in the future, but they are not trivial."

America, well into its war on terrorism, cannot afford to see Pakistan fall into chaos. Al Qaeda would then be able to operate at will from remote mountainous regions.

Since inserting itself into Afghanistan, America has established a new doctrine of intervention where sovereign countries are unable to deal with elements hostile to American interests. Israel has followed the same principle in its incursions into Palestinian-controlled areas.

William Safire pointed out in *The New York Times* of May 31, 2002:

“The Indians point to the new global antiterrorist principle enunciated by George W. Bush and practiced by Ariel Sharon, and say, with unassailable logic, they have been patient enough. But India, which could win another conventional war with Pakistan, surely wants no nuclear exchange. What can it expect from the world in return for more restraint?”

“India demands pressure on Pakistan to exercise its internal sovereignty. Either the government of President Pervez Musharraf controls Pakistan’s portion of Kashmir or it invites policing from outside.

“But there’s this complication: The U.S. needs Musharraf to help root out Al Qaeda, which has gone underground in Muslim Pakistan and is trying to provoke nuclear war with Hindu India. And too many Pakistanis fail to realize that the terrorists railing about the ‘occupation’ of Kashmir by India hope to call down millions of casualties on both countries.”

Kipling’s “Great Game” continues to be played in this critical region (see December 2001 issue, p. 16).

## A Right-Wing Movement Sweeps Through Europe

The winds of political change are blowing across the continent of Europe. Upheavals have recently been spawned in the Netherlands and France. Dutch rightist party leader Pim Fortuyn was assassinated on May 6—depriving him from sharing personally in the spoils of his party’s surprising showing at the Dutch polls. It came second in a country whose governmental structure usually embraces a coalition of different parties.

Also, French extremist party leader Jean-Marie Le Pen came in second in the next to last stage of the French presidential race, consigning socialist French Prime Minister Leon Jospin to third place and paving the way for his ouster from

government. This left France in a state of shock, producing a national scare that in turn engendered the overwhelming victory of incumbent President Jacques Chirac in the runoff.

These headline-grabbing changes are indicative of what is taking place a little more quietly in much of Europe. According to *The Economist*, “A pattern may now be emerging across the EU. Centre-left and social democratic governments are losing power to centre-right governments. In the past year the left has lost power in Italy, Denmark, Portugal and now the Netherlands. In France, the Socialists’ candidate [Leon Jospin] failed to reach the final round of the presidential election” (May 18, 2002, British spellings).

Germany’s Social Democrat chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, faces a tough challenge from the more rightist Edmund Stoiber in September’s elections. Jörg Haider’s right wing Freedom Party is gaining ground in Austria’s ruling coalition. Racially extremist National Front movements are on the rise in both Britain and France. Said Claude Allégre, former socialist education minister: “We are witnessing a Europe swinging back towards the right, and sometimes towards the extreme right. And France is no different. Why should it be? Pink Europe is finished” (*The Sunday Times*, April 28, 2002).

*The New York Times* succinctly sums up the current situation: “From Spain to Scandinavia, European politics is drifting to the right. As the economy slows, political parties stressing law and order and stricter controls on immigration are gaining ground, and mainstream conservative politicians are becoming more popular.”

At the heart of the problem is the westward refugee movement from Eastern Europe. The Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall are no more. People are pouring into the nations of Western Europe demanding asylum amid a climate of high unemployment (on the Continent) and strained social and financial resources. Often the citizenry deeply resents the sudden presence of these refugees, however compelling their individual cases may be.

Margaret Thatcher’s observations are instructive in her new book, *Statecraft*. “During my lifetime most of the problems the world has faced have come, in one fashion or the other, from mainland Europe, and the solutions from outside it” (2002, p. 320).

From time to time ever since the era of the Roman Empire, the European continent has been host to damaging revolutionary movements that periodically repeat themselves, devastating the land with suffering and death. The worry is that a coming European superstate is next. Requesting our free brochure, *The Book of Revelation Unveiled*, will give the reader much more detail.

Sources: *The New York Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor* [electronic edition], *The Economist*, *Statecraft*, *The Sunday Times* [London].

Contributors: Darris McNeely, John Ross Schroeder and Jim Tuck



*Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf speaks to troops on the Indian border May 29 (Reuters)*

“**MAKING SENSE,**” (Continued from page 16)

on the king. Remember that the Kingdom of Jordan’s population is by itself nearly 50 percent Palestinian. Jordan’s 1994 peace treaty with Israel, which makes it one of only two Arab states with such a relationship, presses Jordanians to the limits due to the perceived plight of their ethnic kinsmen.

Recently the king’s wife, Queen Rania, herself a Palestinian from the West Bank, led a peaceful march through Amman to express solidarity with the people of Tulkarm, her hometown, which was subjected to a recent Israeli incursion. With tensions running high, any future political movement has ground to a halt as even sterner measures have been put in place to maintain public calm. The pressures from

extremism? Not only does it destroy my hopes for the future of my country, but it definitely will affect the future and interests of the West and the United States. I don’t want to frighten people about September 11th scenarios, but if you have a militant region it’s going to take decades to fix.”

In this particular exchange he concluded with the chilling thought, “If I were Osama bin Laden now and I thought that I had originally lost, I’d be coming out of my cave and thinking, ‘Ah, maybe I have a chance now.’”

### A leader among leaders

Abdullah, as one of the United States’ closest allies in the Middle East, is now a central player in any possible peace process for the region. According to Wright, National Security Spokesman Sean McCormick says Abdullah is “a leader among leaders in his work to bring peace to the region.”

Wright shares an “off the record” quote by one State Department official: “These guys have done more in the last two months than the entire Arab World did in the last 20 years.” Recently when in Washington D.C. preparing to visit the White House, Abdullah heard the news regarding the pool hall bombing incident that killed 15 Israelis and injured dozens more. According to Wright, Abdullah threw his head into his hands and said, “Oh no, this is crazy!” He realized this would only reignite the cyclical nature of revenge between the Israelis and Palestinians.

During the same trip, at Rice University in Texas, the king explained his vision for the region. The current crisis has left his region at ground zero. Both peoples are exhausted and are ready for peace that will allow an

Israeli mother to send her child on an errand to the local supermarket without fear, a peace that will allow a Palestinian mother to deliver her newborn, alive, at a hospital and not at an Israeli roadblock.

How could this ever come about? Wright reports, “the King prescribes a global peace alliance to foster a new approach to settling the conflict.” In the king’s words, “Its goal is ensuring that the security, economic and political needs of both Israel and the Palestinians are met—and guaranteed to endure. The deal must aim for the finish line—at the halfway markers, not the rules for pit stops.”

### The glory of a king

Long ago, Solomon was quoted by scribes of Hezekiah as saying, “It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter” (Proverbs 25:2). There aren’t too many kings left in today’s world, but this one seems to be truly searching for a key to peace. In countless interviews that I have seen, this king is not saying one thing in



Reuters/Win McNamee

*King Abdullah of Jordan meets with George W. Bush May 8*

America, Israel, his fellow Arab states, his own Palestinian constituency and the actions of his own wife place incredible challenges squarely on his shoulders.

But just as this young king dreamed big regarding material progress for his kingdom, he now dreams even bigger for a real peace for the entire region. But as reporter Wright carefully notes, “Abdullah is candid about the challenges and his response.” In his recent 10-day tour to the United States, he stated, “I wanted the Americans to understand that whenever you have to be tough on your own society, you are paying a price you will have to deal with later.”

It is a warning he wants the West to thoroughly grasp. He said, “75 percent of the Middle East’s population is young and in the Information Age, and being saturated with images of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the venom of hatred. Without imminent resolution there’s a growing danger of losing an entire generation to extremism, with a ripple effect that would spill beyond the Middle East’s borders. Can you imagine the horror if we lose 75 percent of Arab population to

Arabic to the hometown crowd and another in English to get the West off his back.

Is he doing it for simply altruistic motives? Probably not. He has a throne to keep, and a kingdom to run, and he needs financial assistance from the West if he's going to get his increasingly computer literate population to the next rung of the competitive ladder. But he also dares to dream! Is he simply a dreamer in a nightmare landscape? Time will tell.

But dreams can take you all sorts of places, some high and some low. Just ask Joseph of the Bible. His dream (Genesis 37:5-11) took him into slavery, then into prison and ultimately to the seat of power as second in command of Egypt. But his dream never changed, only his interpretation and understanding of what God intended in the first place.

He would come to understand that it wasn't about him, but about others and what he could do for them. His brothers would ultimately be bowing to him, not out of duty, but out of respect for his forgiveness and generosity. Kindness and working with others, even those who have hurt you deeply, is far more important than incubating the cancerous germ of hatred.

Abdullah has proverbially "searched out" this matter correctly. No matter how big you are, or how important you think you are, or how right you think your cause to be; it is vital to connect with others, even those who might not see things quite your way.

Allow me to illustrate the importance of reaching out and striving to connect. Take the sequoia tree of California, for example. This monarch of the flora world can tower as much as 350 feet in height.

Strangely, these giants have unusually shallow root systems that reach in all directions to capture the greatest amount of surface moisture. Seldom will you see a redwood standing alone, because high winds would uproot it. That's why they grow in clusters. Their intertwining roots provide support for one another against the storms.

These giants of the forest offer us an important lesson in connecting with others.

## Let My outcasts dwell with you

Prophetic scripture indicates that an even greater storm than anything we have yet seen is going to roar through the Middle East. Daniel 11 indicates that the Middle East is going to be the geopolitical crunch zone between two world powers symbolically described as the king of the North and the king of the South. In a conflict of incredible proportions, verse 41 clearly indicates the king of the North "shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon."

Did you realize that modern-day Jordan, whose capital is Amman, likely occupies that which was once known as Moab?

But why might the Kingdom of Jordan escape? Long ago in one of the great prophecies of the Bible, God made certain promises to a faithful man named Abraham that also apply to his descendants. One of those promises, found in Genesis 12:3, states, "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you."

One unmistakable present reality is that the king of Jordan is desirous of building a bridge to the present "outcast" of the Middle East, the Jewish state of Israel. The little "oil-less" Kingdom of Jordan could be used of God for a powerful purpose in the future.

King Hussein and his son, Abdullah II, are men who have dreamed dreams. While having made their mistakes and stumbled in the minefield of Middle East politics, these rulers of Jordan have sought to walk a kinder, gentler path than their Arab brethren. Is this just happenstance? Or is a powerful purpose being worked out here below? God does honor those who honor His people, whether they are the physical or spiritual descendants of Abraham.

The royal footsteps of one man's walk for peace reverberate with the echo of Isaiah 30:21, "this is the way, walk you in it." It's not easy to make sense in a senseless neighborhood like the Middle East. But that's what kings are made for—to "search out a matter" and make things happen. ❖

"WHOSE LAND," (Continued from page 9)

that is imposed by a suzerain or sovereign on a people that he has conquered. In essence, God told these people He chose for a unique purpose: "For My part, I promise to give you the land of Canaan [Palestine]. For your part, you will live by the regulations or the holy law that I give you. If you break your part of the covenant, I'm no longer bound by My Word."

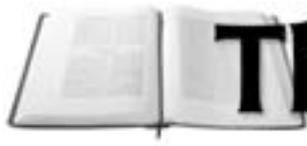
Psalms 105 is but one of numerous references to this covenant, which named the land of Palestine as part of the divinely bequeathed benefits: "O seed of Abraham His servant, you children of Jacob, His chosen ones! He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth. He remembers His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac, and confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, 'To you I will give the land of Canaan as the allotment of your inheritance'" (verses 6-11).

But, the people were expected to "observe His statutes and keep His laws" (verse 45).

With the passage of time, they drifted from their obligations. Generous and gracious, God worked with them for much longer than He was obligated to do. Yet the time came when He finally declared that the covenant was broken: "The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant" (Isaiah 24:5).

So which descendants of Abraham have a right to the land of Palestine? The ones to whom God initially gave it broke the deal and have no more claim to the land than any other ethnic group, if we look to the One who has the sole right to give it away.

Has Abraham no descendants, then, who are "covenant people," whose right of inheritance is this much-bloodied land? Ah, but he does! God actually expanded the land promise to include the entire earth (Romans 4:13), and those who are part of God's New Covenant will be co-inheritors of it. For more information about this remarkable truth, see our booklet *The Gospel of the Kingdom*. ❖



# This is the Way

ISAIAH 30:21

by Robin Webber

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## Making Sense in a Senseless Neighborhood

It's been said that the average person has five senses—touch, taste, sight, smell and hearing—but the successful individual has two additional senses: horse and common.

Perhaps the latter faculty of common sense is the most uncommon sense of all. How the headlines of the world, or our own personal daily headlines, would be different if we used common sense rather than being pulled under by the riptide of emotion, hearsay, gossip and peer pressure. Perhaps there is nowhere on earth more in need of this basic element of success called “common sense” than the world's most geopolitically complicated piece of real estate—the Middle East. In an area which many consider an archaic backwater of political development, one man is speaking sense in a senseless neighborhood.

Recently, *Los Angeles Times* staff writer Robin Wright wrote an intriguing article, which appeared in the May 12, 2002, issue, entitled “Jordan's Transformation Is a Victim of Mideast Turmoil.” Wright spotlighted the reign of Abdullah II of Jordan. After three years of ruling the Kingdom of Jordan, he is beginning to step out from the long shadow of his famous father, King Hussein. What is emerging is worth noting, with perhaps an even longer view to the future.

### Leapfrogging into the future

Abdullah is trying to “leapfrog” his country forward by aggressively pursuing numerous dynamic internal changes for his kingdom. Several years ago, he was known for his “Arthurian” style of slipping out of the palace in disguise without the trappings of royalty, and visiting medical, edu-

cational and government institutions to see for himself the service granted the average individual. Perhaps one of his more telling exploits was walking in and out of his country's Internal Revenue Service with several files without being detected or hindered. This kind of innovative leadership gave him high marks with his subjects. But that was yesterday, and time is a precious commodity in the turbulence of Middle East politics.

This king recognizes peace is an imperative. Perhaps more than most Middle East leaders, he is focused on the future and the need for internal growth because his “oil-less” kingdom cannot rest on its present petroleum-based financial reserves. Necessity truly is the mother of invention. To him, it's common sense.

Reporter Wright brings out that “his agenda has included high-tech centers to teach Bedouin nomads and impoverished villagers, many of whom have never seen a typewriter, how to ‘get wired.’ The impact was soon visible as the government accelerated a painful and noisy transition. Jordan now brags to have more computer programmers than Ireland and its economic growth last year was 4.2%, which is the highest in the Arab world.” Beyond the technological progress, the king would like to make further political changes in a region devoid of the democratic political process.

### A chilling warning about extremism

But this 40-year-old “net-surfing” king and his fundamentally tribal society cannot help but feel the impact of the current Palestinian intifada. It's taking a personal toll

(See “MAKING SENSE,” page 14)